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ABSTRACT

5 A production process and a catalyst are provided,  
which can be less decreased in activity of the catalyst  
even when CO<sub>2</sub>, water and the like are present in the  
starting material and/or the reaction system, and which  
can produce a formic ester or a methanol at a low  
temperature and a low pressure.

10 The present invention relates to a process for  
producing methanol, comprising reacting carbon monoxide  
with an alcohol in the presence of an alkali metal-type  
catalyst, and/or an alkaline earth metal-type catalyst to  
produce a formic ester, wherein a hydrogenolysis catalyst  
15 of formic ester and hydrogen are allowed to be present  
together in the reaction system to hydrogenate the  
produced formic ester and thereby obtain a methanol.